

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
29 July 2004 (29.07.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/062348 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A01F**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/CA2004/000035

(22) International Filing Date: 14 January 2004 (14.01.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
2,416,238 14 January 2003 (14.01.2003) CA

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,

AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

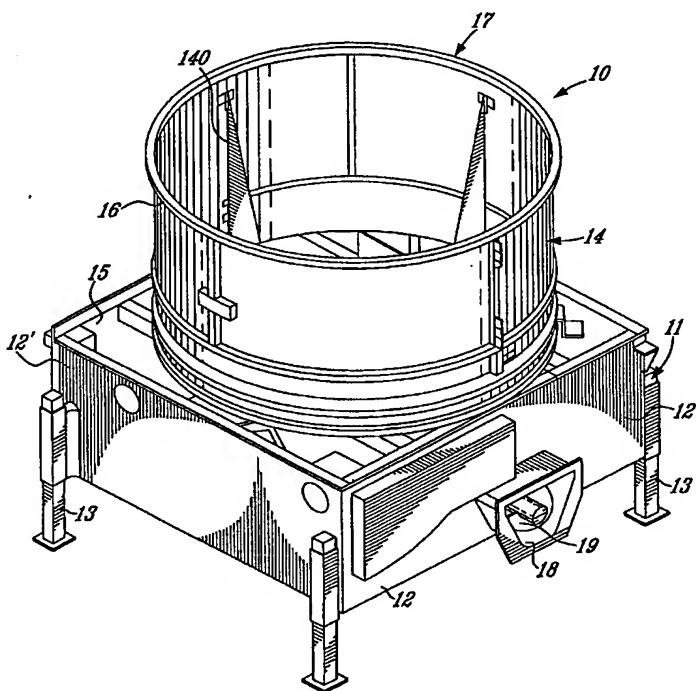
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: HAY BALE PROCESSOR



WO 2004/062348 A2

mechanism (45) is biased upwardly by an air cylinder (50) or air cushion device (280) to maintain a substantially constant pressure on the displaceable suspension such that when the load on the cutting knives of the rotor are subjected to a force exceeding the predetermined pressure of the cylinder the rotor is displaced whereby a substantially constant drive torque is maintained on the electric motor driving the shaft (29) of the rotor (28).

(57) Abstract: A hay bale processor (10) having a cylindrical rotatable drum (14) adapted to displace a bale of hay (156-157) over a grill (26) which has a plurality of spaced-apart parallel slot openings (27) which are adjustable to define an average fiber cut length. A rotor (28) driven by an electric motor (66-67) has cutting blades (35) projecting through the openings to contact a bottom face (159) of a bale of hay (160) displaced over the grill. The rotor has a driveable shaft (29) secured to a displaceable suspension mechanism (45) to displace the blades (35) in the openings and above the grill a variable distance depending on the resistive load applied to the blades of the rotor when a bale of hay is displaced over the grill. The displaceable suspension mechanism (45) is biased upwardly by an air cylinder (50) or air cushion device (280) to maintain a substantially constant pressure on the displaceable suspension such that when the load on the cutting knives of the rotor are subjected to a force exceeding the predetermined pressure of the cylinder the rotor is displaced whereby a substantially constant drive torque is maintained on the electric motor driving the shaft (29) of the rotor (28).



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